

aiding the VIRDEN MINERS

Illinois Militia Obeys Gov. Tanner's Orders to Keep Out Negro Laborers.

WARRANTS AGAINST OFFICIALS

Messrs. Loucks, Lukens, and Yorke Charged with Murder—Claim that Train Guards Never Fired on the Mob.

VIRDEN, Ill., Oct. 14.—This afternoon a rumor became general that the negroes imported by the Chicago-Virden Coal Company to take the places of striking miners might be brought back at any moment. Capt. Craig's men immediately surrounded the railroad station, and the vicinity was cleared of citizens.

Lieut. Henry stated to-day that his orders were not to stop any more passenger trains, as was done last night, when all trains were carefully searched for negroes, but under no circumstances to allow the negro train to pass the station. From now on the station premises will be kept clear of all citizens, and only those who desire to take passage on trains will be permitted to pass the line.

Col. Young's Illinois Cavalry to-day relieved Battery B of guard duty in the city. Col. Young is ranking officer, and is in command of all troops here. His force numbers over 500 men.

As the result of a meeting held by a number of union miners, during which the terrible fight of Wednesday was discussed, a warrant has been sworn out by Virgil Bishop, a union miner, charging the managers of the Chicago-Virden Coal Company, Messrs. Lukens, Loucks, Yorke, and others with murder. The warrant was sworn out before Police Magistrate Roberts of Virden. The complaint names Fred W. Lukens, T. C. Loucks, Mr. Yorke, and others as accessories before and after the fact and as principals.

Magistrate Roberts put the warrant in his pocket for safe keeping, and now carries it around with him. At first it was decided to serve the warrant to-day, but after a deliberation it was thought to be best, in order to avoid complications, to hold it until after the inquest had been completed. This decision was strengthened when Magistrate Roberts, who is foreman of the Coroner's jury, began to-day's session of the inquest within the stockade. In the meantime no one will be allowed to leave the stockade, and Col. Young considers the men under his charge for safe keeping.

When the Coroner and his jury arrived at the stockade where it had been arranged to continue the inquest, they were accompanied by J. W. Patton of Springfield, Ill., who is Manager Lukens's attorney, and also by a representative of the legal department of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, who is here looking after the interests of the railroad company.

Dr. Peterson of the Thiel Detective Agency was the first witness called to-day. He recited in detail the incidents leading up to Wednesday's battle, and told the story of the fight at the north gate, where he was in charge of the company guards. He was sure that his men did not open the battle, and furthermore he asserted that he cautioned them not to fire on numerous occasions during the battle.

The most important testimony was that of J. A. Debarrow of East St. Louis, who was in charge of the special guards in one of the cars of the train which was fired upon in Wednesday's battle. In his statement Debarrow said that when the train carrying the imported negroes had reached a point about 100 yards south of the station the firing began from the exterior on either side of the tracks, and that he gave orders to the men to drop to the floor of the car. He stated that the occupants of the car were colored men, women, and children, and that when he gave those orders he could hear the women and children screaming and yelling that they had been shot.

After the station was passed, he said, the fire became very fierce again on the outside, and continued until the train reached the stockade. When the train drew up alongside the inclosure it was met with another volley of shots from the east side of the track opposite to the stockade. After the firing ceased he heard the order from the gate of the stockade: "Come out; pile out quick!" which he thought came from Dr. Peterson, Captain of the stockade guards. Debarrow stated that he and six negroes ran straight into the inclosure without stopping. He claims that the guards on the train had not fired a single shot during the whole engagement.

The wounded guards, eleven in number, who were on the train with the negroes, testified that the firing was begun by the strikers. Some acknowledged that the guards returned the fire, but none would acknowledge that he had individually fired. The men said they were under strict orders not to fire except in self-defense. One of the wounded guards who had been at the stockade previous to Wednesday, in his testimony, stated that he positively knew there were no guards in the tower over the shafts, and that none of the firing came from the stockades.

Last night at the request of Manager Lukens Capt. Fervier detailed a guard for Mr. Lukens's residence. Col. Young approved of this, and when Manager Lukens stated that he was fearful some of the strikers, in consequence of personal feeling against him, might attempt to injure his private property, he issued orders that a guard remain as long as necessary. Col. Young agreed to the removal of such of the wounded men at the stockade as desired to return to their homes. The guards employed by the coal company are almost unanimous in their desire to return to their homes.

Six ex-guards from St. Louis who came up on the train carrying the blacks Wednesday and who were more or less seriously wounded were allowed to leave for home after a consultation participated in by Col. Young, Manager Lukens, Coroner Hart, Police Magistrate Roberts, and Attorney Patton. Three of the men were so badly injured that it was necessary to carry them to the train.

General Manager Lukens of the Chicago-Virden Coal Company to-day made the following statement in regard to the wages paid by his company and the demands of the strikers:

"Under the old scale of wages prior to the Summer of 1897 the pay at our mines was 25 cents per ton, mine run, and fairly good miners could and did earn \$2.25 per day of ten hours, free of all expenses. The pay rolls show an average of \$2.29 per day net for every miner in the mine, with a range of \$1.10 to \$4.56 per day. The price of powder has been reduced 50 cents a keg since then, which makes a material increase in the miners' wages. At the price miners are demanding, 40 cents per ton, an average miner can earn from \$3 to \$4 per day, and a good workman would have no difficulty in earning \$6 per day. We have had men in our Virden mine working at 55 cents per ton, screened coal, which equals about 28 cents per ton at mine run, make over \$6 per day.

"The charge that the Chicago-Virden Coal Company is oppressing its miners and is not willing to pay its employees living wages is perfectly absurd, and is not entertained for a moment by people who are familiar with the situation. The miners are fighting to get all they possibly can for their labor. We do not object to the men making good wages; the more the better. All we desire is an opportunity to get our coal dug at a price that will allow us to enter the market and sell our coal without loss to ourselves, and this is impossible at the rate of pay demanded by the union workmen.

"The State has taken absolute possession of our property." Mr. Lukens said, "and has practically prohibited us from operating our mines."

Sheriff Davenport, who left Virden during the battle on Wednesday, returned from Carlinville to-day. He was summoned here to appear before the Coroner's jury to give testimony bearing on the riot.